United States Attorney William W. Mercer District of Montana

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Marcus Dean, a 26-year-old resident of Helena, was sentenced today to a term of 240 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to interstate transportation of a minor; travel with the intent to engage in illicit sexual conduct; and distribution of drugs to a person under the age of 21. Dean was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$300, restitution of \$896.33, and will be under supervision for life.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

In late 2005, Dean became acquainted with a 15-year-old girl. Dean introduced her to the intravenous use of narcotics, including oxycodone and morphine, both Schedule II drugs. Dean provided the young girl with the narcotics and injected her with the drugs at various locations in Helena from December of 2005 through February of 2006.

Dean and the young girl also engaged in a sexual relationship that included sexual intercourse, even though Dean was aware that she was only fifteen.

In January of 2006, Dean, the young girl, and two other people traveled to Portland, Oregon. Dean transported or caused the young girl to be transported across state lines. Dean and the young girl engaged in sexual intercourse in several states during the drive to and from Portland. Dean also procured heroin that he injected into the girl.

When questioned, Dean admitted that he had distributed the narcotics to the young girl and that he had intravenously injected her with the drugs. He also admitted that he had transported or caused her to be transported across state lines and that he had traveled across state lines to Portland where they engaged in sexual activity and heroin use.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Dean will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Dean does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was a cooperative effort between the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Helena Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the

case.

"This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/."

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